

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE BULLETIN

APRIL, 1945

MIDDLEBURY, VT.



Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

AUGUST 13-25, 1945

BREAD LOAF, VERMONT

Because of war conditions, the Administration reserves the right to make necessary changes without notice in program, staff, or other arrangements.

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BREAD LOAF WRITERS' CONFERENCE

Twentieth Annual Session

AUGUST 13-25, 1945

Sponsored by

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

THEODORE MORRISON, *Director*



THE STAFF

ROBERT FROST

LOUIS UNTERMAYER

CATHERINE DRINKER BOWEN

FLETCHER PRATT

EDITH MIRRIELES

WALTER E. HAVIGHURST

HELEN EVERITT

WALTER PRICHARD EATON

COLONEL JOSEPH I. GREENE

ALAN COLLINS

WILLIAM SLOANE

THEODORE MORRISON



Mr. Sloane, Mr. Untermeyer, and Mr. Frost

PURPOSE

The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference exists to provide experienced criticism of manuscripts and a program of discussion and instruction in the main professional forms of writing. It is designed chiefly for those interested in writing professionally themselves, but also for any who may desire a better understanding of how successful writing is accomplished.

When it began in 1926, the Conference was a unique institute for the study of professional writing. It has since then served as a model for similar enterprises in many parts of the country. For such an institute, the time is important, the place is important, and the honesty and competence of the staff in criticism and instruction are primarily important.

The time and place of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference favor study combined with enjoyment, and also congenial and ready discussion between Conference members and staff members. The Conference meets for two weeks during late August and is housed at Bread Loaf Inn and its surrounding cottages and buildings, in Vermont, about half way up the main ridge of the Green Mountains.

Several circumstances have favored the development of a staff at Bread Loaf distinguished for experience and honesty of judgment. The Conference is conducted by Middlebury College as one of its regular summer schools. The Conference aims at the results of education without its academic accompaniments. It gives no degrees, credits, or formal courses, but seeks as its primary purpose to increase a writer's understanding of his job. The fact that the Conference staff is employed by and responsible to Middlebury College means that it can devote itself whole-heartedly and exclusively to its purpose of candid and practical criticism and discussion. The staff is chosen from writers, teachers, editors, and publishers who know the craft of writing and the problems of marketing at first hand.

The program of the Conference is fourfold: (1) talks by staff members on the technique of the main forms of writing; (2) "clinics" for group discussion of manuscripts by Conference members; (3) individual interviews for private criticism of manuscripts; (4) talks of more general informative and critical interest on publishing and on contemporary letters and related topics.

The staff does not take the view that a practicing writer can be produced by education, formal training, or criticism; certainly not in two weeks. Nevertheless, the program through the years has proved rewarding in many ways and degrees to different individuals: as a pleasant and stimulating experience; as an aid to the better understanding of the writer's job; as a means of more rapid advancement toward the success of which a given individual is capable; as a source of wise counsel and helpful associations in particular publishing problems, where such problems may arise.



STAFF, 1944

Standing: Alan C. Collins, William M. Sloane, Theodore Morrison, Wallace Stegner, C. Raymond Everitt, Edith Mirrieles, Louis Untermeyer, Richard L. Brown.

Seated: Arthur K. D. Healy, Fletcher Pratt, Mrs. Morrison, Robert Frost, Mrs. Pratt, Helen Everitt.

STAFF AND PROGRAM FOR 1945

ROBERT FROST

Mr. Frost's *Collected Poems* contain his published work from *A Boy's Will* through *A Further Range*. In addition, *A Masque of Reason* appeared this year, and *A Witness Tree* in 1942.

LOUIS UNTERMAYER

Poet and anthologist, Mr. Untermeyer has published many valuable collections, including *Modern British and American Poetry* and *A Treasury of Great Poems*. He is now serving as Editor with Editions for the Armed Services, Inc. In preparation: *A Treasury of Laughing Matter*.

CATHERINE DRINKER BOWEN

Author of *Yankee from Olympus*; *Beloved Friend, The Story of Tschaiowsky and Nadejda von Meck* (in collaboration); *Friends and Fiddlers*; etc.

FLETCHER PRATT

Writer of fiction and non-fiction in both magazines and books; columnist and military critic. Author of *The Navy's War*; *My Life to the Destroyers* (with Captain L. A. Abercrombie); *Land of Unreason* (with L. Sprague de Camp); *Road to Empire* (first volume in a study of Napoleon); etc.

EDITH MIRRIELEES

Author of *The Story Writer*; formerly Professor of English at Stanford University.

WALTER E. HAVIGHURST

Novelist and member of the English Department, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Author of *Pier 17*, *The Quiet Shore*, *The Long Ships Passing*, etc.

HELEN EVERITT

Magazine writer, former literary agent; contributor to *Harper's*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Ladies' Home Journal*.

WALTER PRICHARD EATON

Head of work in playwriting at the school of drama at Yale University. Author of *The Drama in English* and many other books, essays, etc.

RICHARD WRIGHT

Author of *Native Son* and *Black Boy*.

COLONEL JOSEPH I. GREENE

Editor, *The Infantry Journal*.

ALAN COLLINS

President, Curtis Brown, Ltd., literary agency.

WILLIAM SLOANE

Manager, trade department, Henry Holt and Company, publishers.

THEODORE MORRISON, *Director*

Author of *The Serpent in the Cloud* (narrative poem); *Notes of Death and Life* (poems); *The Devious Way* (narrative poem). Formerly on editorial staff, *Atlantic Monthly*; Lecturer on English, Harvard University.

RICHARD L. BROWN

Member of the Department of English, Middlebury College; preliminary reader and Assistant to the Director.

Mr. Untermeyer will have charge of the work in verse, discussing verse-writing, criticizing manuscripts, and giving interviews. Mr. Morrison will collaborate. Mr. Frost will give readings and talks on poetry.

Miss Mirrielees and Mrs. Everitt will have similar charge of work in the short story, and Mr. Havighurst of work in the novel, other staff members collaborating.

Mr. Pratt will have charge of work in article-writing, Colonel Greene collaborating.

Mrs. Bowen will discuss other kinds of non-fiction writing, and will collaborate with other staff members in manuscript reading and interviewing.

Mr. Eaton will visit the Conference to talk on radio and the theatre from the writer's point of view.

Mr. Wright will visit the Conference for an evening lecture.

Mr. Collins and Mr. Sloane will discuss the professional problems of writing as publisher and agent see them, and advise about manuscripts when it may be appropriate.

DATES

The Conference begins with the noon meal on registration day, Monday, August 13. Saturday, August 25, is the last day of scheduled work. For those who cannot conveniently leave Saturday night, the Bread Loaf Inn will serve breakfast and luncheon on Sunday, August 26. Free transportation from Middlebury to Bread Loaf is provided on August 13, and from Bread Loaf to Middlebury on August 25 and 26. Members traveling by train or bus should buy tickets for Middlebury, Vermont.

RECREATION AND SURROUNDINGS

Mountain-climbing, tennis, square-dancing, and lawn games are available at or immediately about Bread Loaf Inn. In normal times, riding stables are also accessible, with golf courses at Middlebury, Brandon, or farther afield, and swimming at Lake Dunmore. War conditions necessarily restrict such facilities.

Bread Loaf Inn is a hotel of picturesque history and exceptional situation. It stands in the midst of one of the most magnificent forest tracts in the Eastern states, well up in the Green Mountains, which overlook the Champlain Valley. The Inn was willed to Middlebury College by its founder and proprietor, Joseph Battell. Because of the altitude, the summers at Bread Loaf are often very cool. Conference members should therefore provide themselves with warm clothing.



Mr. Pratt listens to a question from the floor

FELLOWSHIPS

The Conference offers each year a limited number of fellowships paying all or part of the fees. The fellowships are offered under the following conditions, which should be carefully noted:

1. Personal applications are not accepted.
2. To be considered for a fellowship, each candidate must be *nominated* by a magazine editor, publisher, literary agent, well-known writer, or college teacher. Nomination may be made informally in a letter to the Director, addressed to Warren House, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.

3. On receiving each nomination, the Director will write to the candidate recommended. The letter will (a) inform the candidate that he has been nominated; (b) ask the candidate whether he will require a fellowship paying all fees or whether he can come partly at his own expense; (c) ask the candidate whether he can be reasonably certain of attending the session during the announced dates.

4. In the light of the answers to this letter, a committee of the Conference staff will award the fellowships, guided by the following points:

a. Ordinarily fellowship holders have tangible achievement to their credit, such as published books or contributions to magazines, or plays or scripts produced. If a candidate has as yet no published or produced work, evidence of editorial interest will be expected.

b. The Conference tries to distribute the fellowships so that several of the main professional forms of writing will be represented—verse, magazine fiction, the novel, etc. The Conference tries to give the fellowships to writers who seem likely to profit by them and to contribute by their presence to the success of the Conference as a whole.

5. All nominations for 1945 should be in the Director's hands by June 1.



Mr. and Mrs. Morrison

Among our fellows in recent years have been James Still (proposed by Viking Press); Robert Francis (proposed by Macmillan); Eudora Welty (proposed by Katherine Anne Porter); Carson McCullers (proposed by Houghton Mifflin); Robert Richards (proposed by *The Atlantic Monthly* and Curtis Brown, Ltd.); Theodore Roethke (proposed by Peter Monro Jack); Dilys Bennett Laing (proposed by Duell, Sloan, & Pearce); Virginia Sorensen (proposed by Wallace Stegner and Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.); Betty Wason (proposed by The Macmillan Company); Catherine Pomeroy Stewart (proposed by *Ladies' Home Journal*).

6. For 1945, one fellowship will be provided through an anonymous gift; a limited number of others will be underwritten by the Conference itself.

MEMBERSHIP

Two classes of membership in the Conference are offered:

1. *Contributors*

Those who wish to bring manuscripts to Bread Loaf for criticism by the staff should apply for admission as *Contributors*.

Contributors are asked to submit examples of their work, published or unpublished, *at the time of application*. The object of asking for these examples is to provide as far as possible that contributing members of the Conference shall be likely to profit by the criticism of the staff. Those who do not seem likely to profit by staff criticism will be advised not to enroll as Contributors.

Admission as a Contributor should in no sense be taken as an indication of the sort of criticism which the applicant should expect from the staff members after reaching Bread Loaf. Nor should it be taken as a judgment on the merits or promise of the work submitted. It represents only the careful but not infallible opinion of a preliminary manuscript reader that the applicant may reasonably expect to profit as a writer by the instruction, criticism, and associations of Bread Loaf.

No criticism of any manuscript will be given before the Conference begins.

Contributors should bring manuscripts in their hand luggage so that they may be submitted to the Director on registration day.

2. *Auditors*

Those who do not wish to submit manuscripts should apply for admission as *Auditors*.

Auditors may attend all lectures, discussions, "clinics," and other general meetings of the Conference. They may not submit manuscripts for staff criticism; otherwise their privileges are in no way different from those of Contributors.



Softball at the Frost farm

ADMISSION AND RESERVATIONS

1. Application blanks, bulletins, and general information about the Conference may be secured from the central office of the Secretary of the Language Schools, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.

2. Fill out your application blank and send it to Richard L. Brown, Assistant to the Director, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.

3. If you desire admission as a Contributor, forward to Mr. Brown examples of your published or unpublished work at the same time that you return your application blank. As much material may be submitted as you feel is necessary to represent fairly the range and quality of your work.

All manuscripts must be clearly typewritten, and will be returned only if accompanied by full postage or clear directions for return by

express collect. A full and clear address should be written on all manuscripts as well as on all letters. Some time may pass before manuscripts can be returned, and it will therefore be an advantage to keep copies. The Conference assumes no responsibility for manuscripts lost in the mails or otherwise. All possible care will be taken to prevent such loss.

4. If you desire admission as an Auditor, return your application, without manuscript, to Richard L. Brown. Take care to indicate that you wish admission as an Auditor.

5. Return the room application card to the Secretary of the Language Schools, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, and address all subsequent correspondence about rooms to that office.

6. Do not address correspondence to Bread Loaf before August 13.

FEES

A room deposit of \$5 payable to Middlebury College should accompany your application. This deposit will be credited to your account, or it will be returned if for any reason your application cannot be accepted.

1. For *Contributors*:

The charge for membership in the Conference for Contributors is \$100 plus the charge for a room in the Bread Loaf Inn or one of the cottages. The fee of \$100 includes charges for tuition and board for the duration of the Conference. Rooms may be had at a cost of \$12.50 to \$30.00 for the full term. *Make all checks payable to Middlebury College.* No refunds can be made in case of cancellation.

2. For *Auditors*:

The charge for Auditors is \$75 plus room charges. Auditors may enroll for one week at \$50 plus room charges, but otherwise there will be no deduction for part-time attendance. No refunds can be made in case of cancellation.

Any person whose application for membership in the Conference has been accepted, and who has accordingly contracted for board and tuition on this understanding, will be required to abide by this arrangement after reaching Bread Loaf. The Conference, however, reserves the right to request the withdrawal of any member.

BREAD LOAF SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

Middlebury College
Middlebury, Vermont

AUGUST 3—AUGUST 31, 1945

Bread Loaf, situated in the heart of the Green Mountains, offers an unusual opportunity for advanced study of English. The School offers graduate courses, leading to a Master's degree, in English and American literature, literary history and the English language. Special attention is paid to the needs of teachers of English. The instructing staff is nationally known.

Splendid mountain scenery, healthful out-of-doors activities, and an informal friendly atmosphere create an environment in which students, teachers and writers find new inspiration and professional guidance.

Faculty

SCULLEY BRADLEY, University of Pennsylvania

WILLIAM DIGHTON, Queens College

HEWETTE E. JOYCE, Dartmouth College, *Acting Director*

JAMES SOUTHALL WILSON, University of Virginia

LOUIS C. ZAHNER, Groton School

For further information and bulletins, address

THE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS OFFICE
Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont

BREAD LOAF BOOKS

Bread Loaf Book of Plays. Edited by Hortense Moore. Introduction by John Mason Brown. Text and production notes for stage adaptation of Robert Frost's *Snow*; *Fall of the House of Usher*; *Noah and His Sons*; *Happy the Bride*; *Gruach*; and *The Widow: Or Who Wins*. \$3.00

STOPS. A handbook for those who know their punctuation and for those who aren't quite sure. Introduction by Robert M. Gay. \$1.00

Only on the West Wind. Bread Loaf poems by Florida Watts Smyth. Introduction by Louis Untermeyer. \$1.00

Vermont Chap Book. "A garland of ten folk ballads as they were sometime known to the people of Vermont and as they now repose in the Helen Hartness Flanders Collection in the Middlebury College Library." \$1.50

Orpheus and the Moon Craters. A book of poems by Cedric Whitman. Introduction by Theodore Morrison. \$1.00

Time Is Our House. A book of poems by Louise McNeill. Introduction by Norman Foerster. \$1.25

